



# FY 2012 SAFER GRANT PROGRAM

Presented by: Fire Chief John Fruetel

# Overview of SAFER 2012

- Application due August 10, 2012
- Awards will be presented in October-early November
- \$50 million set aside specifically to fund firefighter positions (salary & benefits) filled by military veterans who are new employees.
- Each position filled by a military veteran will be eligible to receive full funding for three years instead of the usual two years.
- Each position is fully funded by SAFER. No impact to the City's general fund budget.

# Budget Implications

- MFD request is to hire six military veterans as new firefighters
- Savings to the general fund budget would be roughly \$475,000 per year over three years, or approximately \$1.425 million overall.
- Laying off firefighters during the commitment will result in termination of the grant award.
- Upon termination, grantee must repay any amount funded previously on the grant.

# Challenges

- Timing – only firefighters hired AFTER the SAFER grant award date are eligible for grant funding.
- Waiting to hear from FEMA whether we can hire before the award date and retroactively amend our start date in order to capture newly hired vets.
- Grantees must maintain staffing at the level that exists at the time of award plus SAFER funded staff for the two or three year commitment.
- Current SAFER minimum staffing is 388
- New SAFER minimum would be 394

# Questions

